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PERSONAL MENTION.

Frederick Bajer, "the soul of the peace movement," in Denmark, or rather in the Scandinavian States, was born in 1837. He was educated for a soldier and served as an officer in the Danish armies until 1865. He was specially active during the war of 1864 with Germany, being on duty most of the time on the east coast of Jutland. After leaving the army he entered upon the study of political questions and in 1872 he was elected a Representative to the Danish Parliament from the town of Horsens. He still represents this district, having been re-elected for nine successive times, in spite of the efforts of several contestants.

In 1882 he initiated a movement for founding in the midst of the Danish Parliament an association for the neutralization of Denmark. This association soon gained numerous adherents outside of Parliament and afterwards took the name of the "Peace Association of Denmark." This association took up two special questions: first, that permanent treaties of arbitration be entered into between Denmark and other sovereign States, and second, that the question of northern Schleswig should be solved in accordance with the principle that States have a sovereign right to say what shall become of themselves.

Mr. Bajer has been a member of all the modern Peace Congresses, both of the special European ones, held at Berne, Geneva and Neuchâtel, in 1884, 1886 and 1888, and of the three Universal Peace Congresses held recently at Paris, London and Rome. He has likewise been a leading spirit in the Interparliamentary Conferences held at these latter places, and was the author of the proposition to found at Berne a Universal Peace Bureau, which was organized by the Congress last year. He was made one of the Commission of five to start this Bureau, under whose special supervision the Congress at Berne is to be held this year.

Mr. Bajer is also the author of a brochure entitled "Plan of War of the Friends of Peace," and has taken Von Moltke's celebrated rule of war, "March separately, attack unitedly," as the motto for the Friends of Peace. He thinks that the various peace societies, while each has its special work, must combine and unitedly attack the war system, if they are to overthrow it. He is giving almost his whole time to the peace cause, and has resigned the Presidency of the Denmark Association in order to give his thought and time to the wider and more difficult international phases of the subject.

Charles Albert Gobat, who will preside at the Inter-Parliamentary Conference at Berne, was born May 21, 1843. From his early youth he distinguished himself in his studies. From school he went to the University of

Bâle, and from thence to that of Heidelberg, where he obtained, in 1864, the degree of Doctor of Law with honors, his name being recorded in the first rank of merit. After completing his studies in Paris, he returned to Switzerland and practised at the bar at Delémot (Jura-Bernois) up to 1882. Thereafter his country has claimed the services of his great intelligence. Nominated a member of the Government of the Republic of Berne, he was assigned the post of chief of the Department of Public Instruction, and this office he still fills, but it has not been to him free from anxieties. For five years he maintained a struggle for the maintenance of his liberal and progressive ideas. His desire was to give to public education a direction in harmony with the needs of the age, and, despite strong opposition, he has succeeded.

The general conception of this reform was to reduce the study of the classics to their relative importance, and to give greater prominence to the study of natural sciences and modern languages. The struggle between the partisans of the classics and the partisans of modern languages is going on in all countries, and it is only in the most liberally governed States that ministers of public instruction, imbued with modern ideas, can deliver the youth of the schools from *the Greeks and the Latins*. M. Gobat has triumphed after a long strife, and the new generation will owe it to him that they will know more of the sciences which have a practical application, though it may be at the cost of less knowledge of the glorification of brute force as sung by the poets of the ancients.

At the Inter-Parliamentary Conference of Rome, M. Gobat was the president of the Swiss section. He was the president of the International Congress of Geographical Sciences, held at Berne last year, and, as president of the Geographical Society of Berne, he is an honorary member of the Geographical Societies of all lands. He is the author of the great historical work, "The Republic of Berne and France during the Wars of Religion."—*The Arbitrator, August.*

Elie Ducommun was born in Geneva, February 19, 1833. His father, imbued with humanitarian ideas, and a progressist in its best sense, devoted all the means at his disposal to the education of his sons, and the subject of this sketch is wont to dwell with emotion on the sacrifices which his father made to educate him. On leaving school at Geneva, at the age of 17, he obtained a situation as teacher in Saxony, and in his leisure hours applied himself to the study of the German language and literature, with the result that, on his return to his native town, we find him engaged in the service of public instruction of his canton. In 1860 he was appointed editor of the *Revue de Genève*, and in 1862 was nominated Chancellor of the State of Geneva. In 1865 he left Geneva to found the newspaper *Le Progrès*, at Berne, and for many years he held the office of translator for the Swiss National Council. In 1871 and 1872 he edited the newspaper *L'Helvétie*, and in 1873 was appointed general secretary of the railways which have successively borne the names of Jura-Vernois, Jura-Berne-Lucerne and Jura-Simplon. For the past ten years he has been a member of the Grand Council of Geneva.

A politician, a literate, a devoted partisan of humanitarian ideas, he edited, in 1868 and 1869, in collaboration with M. Gustave Vogt, *Les Etats-Unis d'Europe*. A Vice-President of the League of Peace and Liberty, he

declined its presidency on the death of Charles Lemonnier, in order to devote all the leisure which his public offices admitted to the organization of the International Peace Bureau, the creation of which was resolved by the Congress of Rome. He was in close friendship with Charles Lemonnier, and ranks high in the esteem of all champions of the cause of peace, while his great administrative abilities and his absolute rectitude have secured for him the confidence and esteem of all his countrymen.—EMILE BESSIRE, in *Le Courrier Diplomatique*.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, Aug. 13, 1892.

A perfect sea voyage is as delightful as it is rare. The moods of the sea are various, but eight days of unruffled composure have almost made us think that the billowy main has caught something of the spirit of "the coming peace." However the calmness of it may be accounted for, the voyage just ended will always remain in the memory of the writer as a symbol of all that is peaceful and sunny. The "oldest traveller" (and we had many such on board) has never seen anything like it. Everybody expected it. All are convinced now that they were prophets before the trip began. Scarcely a whitecap, of the lesser sort even, has been seen. The ship has not made a plunge; the tables have not had a rack on them; no one has had any serious qualms of the inner man; "how steady she moves" has been often heard; only one night of fog came with its dismal groaning of the whistle; the gay have laughed and danced on deck; the tired and lazy have lounged and slept; the sober have sat and looked pensively out on "the many-twinkling laugh" of the ocean; the crippled have drawn up their crutches and gone promenading; men have died and children have been born; the smokers have smoked; the drinkers have drank; the eaters have eaten; the writers have written; the readers have read; and all with the huge "carry-all" slipping swiftly on, with the smoothness of a snow-sled drawn by wing-footed reindeer. Many have been inclined to think that we have had too much of a good thing, and that it would have been more interesting, if we could have had one good blow which would have sent the vessel tumbling and rolling among the waves. As for ourselves, though the love of the novel and striking is said to be distinctly manifest in our make-up, we confess that we should like to take a life-contract, if it were not irreverent to speak thus, that all future voyages should be duplicates of this one. After eight days of this dreamy, soothing luxury, away from the wearing toil and nerve-destroying feverishness of the world, blessing the stars that as yet there is one part of the planet which the morning newspaper and the commercial traveller and the thundering wagon cannot molest, for the time being having lost all anxiety as to what goes on in this world or in Mars either, suddenly the throbbing of the engines ceases, the screws stop, you are waked up

and tumbled out into Hamburg, where the clatter of a foreign tongue reminds you that still is going on in the world the miracle of the tower of Babel at which those wicked post-diluvians, ambitious to have it all to themselves, got confounded and were compelled each to take his own corner of the earth.

One of the never ceasing wonders of a sea-voyage is the variety of character of the people you meet. If Lotze were still living he might write a new "Microcosmus" about an ocean steamer, for the world in miniature is certainly found in it. One sometimes feels like blushing at the bare-faced effrontery of the thing, at other times like laughing at the ridiculousness of it, but neither of these mental conditions has any effect on the mutual, analytic study of one another made by the passengers of a ship. Eyes, nose, mouth, beard, ears, hair, feet, hands, dress, gait, age, profession, titles, "prospects," nothing escapes the sternly scientific scrutiny of the passenger. The study is all the more perfect because confined to a limited number of cases. You commence on your roommate, who tumbles in on you at New York, two hundred and forty pounds strong, and makes you look startled as you think about the capacity of your quarters. Somebody asks you about him, and somebody else asks him about you. This leads to other inquiries and to important and interesting disclosures. This process goes round among the groups which gather daily on deck, and before you arrive at your "desired haven," you have found out as much as you care to know, perhaps more, about your fellow travellers; natural selection makes its choices, the mass is broken up into divisions in which like gathers to like, and the drama of society is played over again on the sea in almost every detail.

In this ship's company, to illustrate, was a United States consul going to look after our business interests abroad; the director of the National Museum, with a party of assistants, on the way to the Columbian Exposition at Madrid; a New York physician; an eminent Boston surgeon; some young medical students from Harvard and from Philadelphia on their road to do further work at Berlin; a young Hong Kong merchant on his way to Hamburg to get a wife; two Boston dressmakers going to London and to Paris to study the styles and to buy goods; lawyers from Chicago and Rochester; rich families going across to kill time; shoe manufacturers; evangelists and preachers; emigrants going back to the fatherland; and so on at pleasure. Among some of these we have managed to get in a word, in a quiet way, for the brotherhood of man, which is working itself out in a very real though mostly unconscious way on these ocean steamers. When Henry Richard compared these ships to gigantic shuttles weaving a web of brotherhood and peace between the nations, he was very happy in his selection of a metaphor. They are, from another point of view, floating islands, on which people of all lands meet and live together for a